

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL PRODUCE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

# IOWA HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA



## Updated Research Center in Des Moines is now open

The newly renovated State Historical Library & Archives Iowa History Research Center in Des Moines is now **open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**  
**Wednesday-Friday.**

Visitors will find **numerous upgrades and improvements** as they dive into collections filled with state government records, books and periodicals, newspapers, county records, manuscripts, photographs and more.



*A view of the State Capitol from inside the State Historical Library & Archives Iowa History Research Center in Des Moines.*

**Upgrades and improvements include:**

- Updated furniture and fixtures.

- Increased wifi access, and more public computers and electrical outlets.
- Upgraded scanning and microfilm-reading technology.
- Increased browsing access to the historical library collection.
- A new seating area with a view of the State Capitol.
- A new exhibit area within the Research Center that showcases State Archives, Special Collections and Historical Library materials.

The State Historical Library & Archives Iowa History Research Center is located inside the State Historical Building, [600 E. Locust St.](#) in Des Moines. More information is available below and online at [iowaculture.gov/history/research/research-centers](#).



## Research Center

The renovation of the **15,000-square-foot research center** in Des Moines – which had remained mostly unchanged since it opened in 1987 – came in conjunction with the state's multi-phase capital improvement project at the State Historical Building. The research center project was supported by the state of Iowa capital infrastructure funding and grants including from the **Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust** and **Prairie Meadows** with additional support from **MidAmerican Energy** and **Musco**. The planning process was informed by **historical society staff, focus groups and surveys of research center users**, resulting in a refreshed and inviting space and a streamlined user experience.

*Image: Items from the State Historical Library are available for browsing at the newly renovated State Historical Library & Archives Iowa History Research Center in Des Moines.*

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESEARCH CENTERS](#)



## Research Collections

The State Historical Society of Iowa, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, **collects, preserves, exhibits and interprets Iowa history**. Preservation of and education about history are integral to our mission. The research centers in Des Moines and Iowa City are **free to use and provide collection access to a wide audience** that includes educators, students, journalists, curators, archaeologists, authors, preservationists, historians and genealogists. Whether you are an experienced researcher or new to learning about Iowa history, **we're here to connect you to the resources you need**.

*Image: Upgraded computers, scanning and microfilm technology are available to visitors at the State Historical Library & Archives Iowa History Research Center in Des Moines.*

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESEARCH COLLECTIONS](#)

## SHSI board and award nominations



### Excellence in Iowa History Awards

The society is issuing a call for nominations for its **Excellence in Iowa History Awards**, which recognize outstanding publications, local history initiatives and major achievements in Iowa history.

Nominations due Feb. 1.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

### SHSI Board of Trustees

The State Historical Society of Iowa is calling for nominations for members to serve on its **board of trustees**. Nominations can be submitted by any person, but nominees must be **society members**.

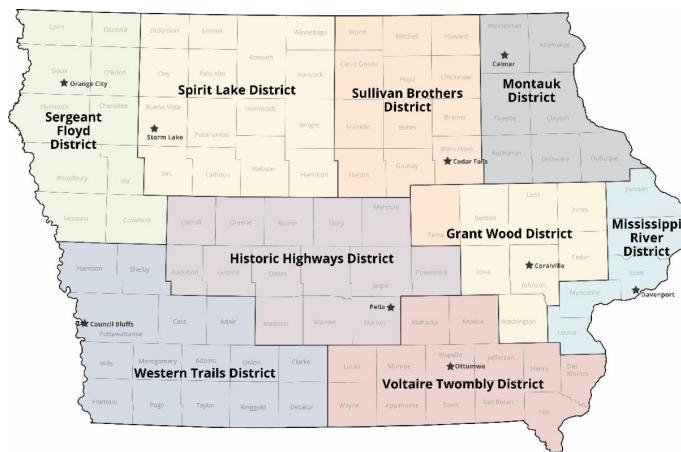
Nominations due March 1.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## National History Day in Iowa needs volunteer judges!

**National History Day in Iowa** challenges students to become historians as they investigate primary sources, craft historical arguments, and create projects about historical topics they're passionate about. In **March 2023**, **nine district contests throughout Iowa** are the students' first chance to present their projects for evaluation by judges in the hopes of advancing to the state contest – and that's where you come in.



As a judge, you'll **work as a team of two or three** to review projects and interview students, select the strongest projects to advance to the next level of competition, and provide written feedback about each project you see. It's a great opportunity to support young scholars in your community (and learn a thing or two along the way)!

Never judged before? Don't worry. You'll **receive training materials ahead of time** and attend an orientation on the day of the contest. Most events run 8 a.m.-3 p.m., and breakfast and lunch will be provided.

If you're interested, simply complete a short form or contact NHD in Iowa Program Coordinator **Hanna Howard** at [NHD.Iowa@iowa.gov](mailto:NHD.Iowa@iowa.gov). We hope to see you in March!

[LEARN MORE](#)
[EMAIL THE COORDINATOR](#)
[SIGN UP TO JUDGE](#)

## 2023 Iowa History 101 series programs

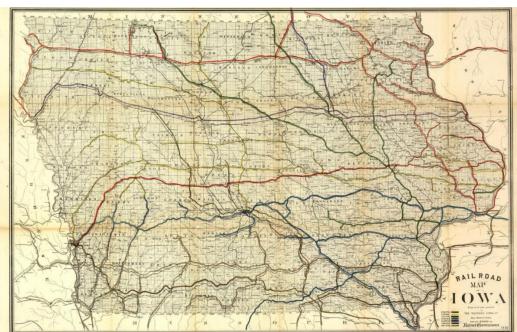
You can register in advance for any or all of first group of 2023 **Iowa History 101 programs**. Each program is recorded and made **available online**.



[The Story Behind Frank Lloyd Wright's First Usonian House](#)  
[Built in Iowa: The Walter House in Cedar Rock](#)  
**Noon Jan. 26**

*Image: Cedar Rock Garden Room. Friends of Cedar Rock*

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)



### [Twilight Cluster: A Western Iowa Railroad Phenomenon](#)

Noon Feb. 9

*Image: Railroad map of Iowa, ca. 1881. Library of Congress*

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)



### [Uncommon Ground: Grant Wood and Russell Lee's Divergent View of Iowa](#)

Noon March 9

*Image: Lee Mike Maloney and his wife on a farm near Denison, Iowa. Library of Congress.*

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

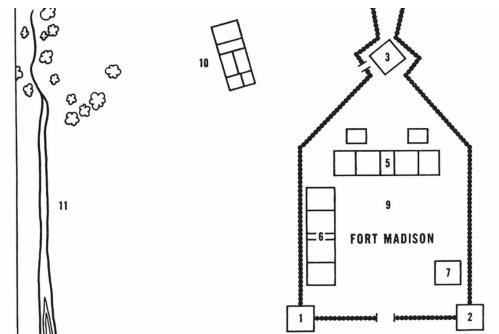


### ["Protector of the Poor": Iowa's Poor Farms and Midwestern Social Welfare](#)

Noon Feb. 23

*Image: County Home near Vinton, Iowa. Benton County Historical Society*

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### [Fort Madison in Pre-Statehood Iowa: The U.S. Army as a Predecessor to Anglo-American Settlement](#)

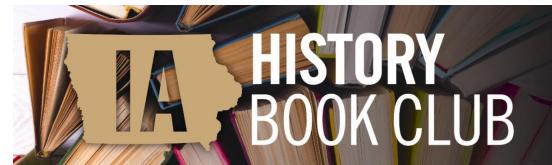
Noon March 23

*Image: Ft. Madison, 1810. State Historical Society of Iowa*

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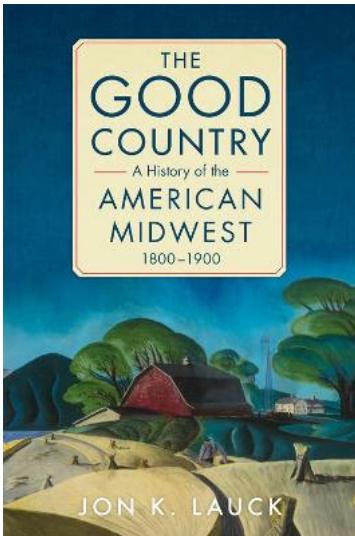
## 2023 Iowa History Book Club schedule announced

The State Historical Society of Iowa's 2023 Iowa History Book Club programs explore a number of books related to Iowa history, from the formative years of the **American Midwest** and



an Iowan's ties to Oskar Schindler to First Lady Lou Henry Hoover and the suffrage movement.

During the programs, **Annals of Iowa** Editor Andrew Klumpp leads an hour-long online discussion with each book's author or an Iowa historian. **Listeners are encouraged to submit questions** when they register or during the meeting. The books can be found at local booksellers, libraries or online. Each program is recorded and made **available online**. Additional information about each book and program is below:

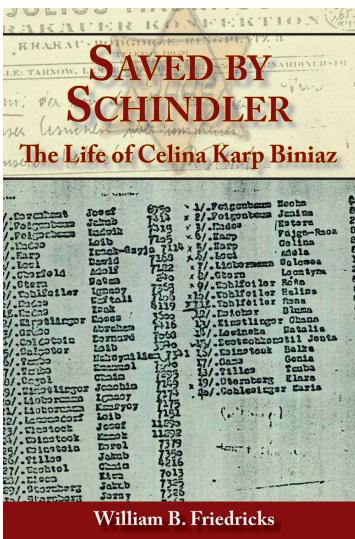


### "The Good Country" by Jon Lauck

**7 p.m. March 30**

The first-ever chronicle of the Midwest's formative century, "The Good Country" describes a rich civic culture that prized education, literature, libraries, and the arts; developed a stable social order grounded in Victorian norms, republican virtues, and Christian teachings; and generally put democratic ideals into practice to a greater extent than any nation to date.

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### "Saved by Schindler: The Life of Celina Karp Biniaz" by William B. Friedricks

**7 p.m. May 11**

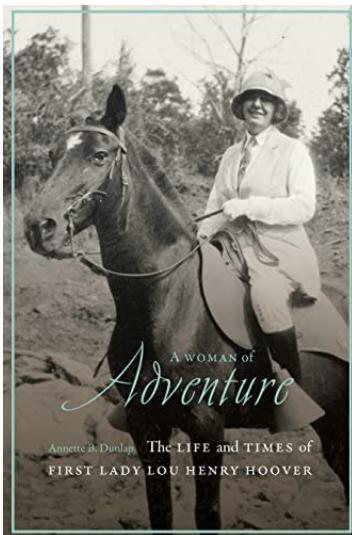
Celina Karp Biniaz was 8 years old when Germans invaded her homeland of Poland in 1939. She and her family were sent to a concentration camp where she spent several terrifying weeks facing down the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele. Eventually, she landed on Schindler's list and made her way to Iowa along with her family.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

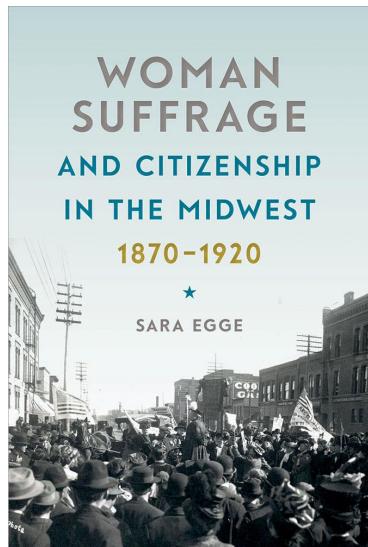
### "A Woman of Adventure: The Life and Times of First Lady Lou Henry Hoover" by Annette Dunlap

**7 p.m. Sept. 7**

When World War I began, life changed for Iowa-native Lou Henry Hoover. Her husband, Herbert Hoover, began a political career that led to the White House while she devoted her time to supporting the Girl Scouts, Stanford University's music and physical therapy programs, athletics for women and education for countless students.



[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)



**"Woman Suffrage and Citizenship in the Midwest, 1870-1920" by Sara Egge**

**7 p.m. Nov. 30**

Uncover the ways midwestern suffragists understood citizenship as an obligation. The suffragists – primarily Yankees from the Northeast – settled in the region and founded libraries, schools, churches and parks. The National American Women's Suffrage Association gained support only when local rural women claimed the right to vote.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

## Become a member and support Iowa history



### Become a member of SHSI

Make your mark on Iowa history by becoming a member of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Your membership **supports statewide projects**



### Join Goldie's Kids Club

Sign up your young historians for Goldie's Kids Club and **introduce them to Iowa history** through a number of select programs and activities.

**and educational programs** as we continue to preserve and protect the places, people and points of pride that define our state. In return, you'll receive several benefits, including **invitations to members-only programs**, exhibit previews and other events; **voting rights for elections to the board of trustees**; **discounts for paid programs**; and more. Become a part of history by filling out your membership today.

*Image: Young students have lunch outside at a country school in Grundy Center, Iowa. Library of Congress. 1939.*

Your **complimentary membership** includes a monthly newsletter, invitations to upcoming museum activities, a card from Goldie during your child's birthday month and other goodies and perks throughout the year.

They'll enjoy all kinds of programs and activities designed for their age group, including **History Mystery, Innovative Iowans, Storytime, School Break and special programs**, and complimentary downloadable activities to do at home.

Programs are designed for children 12 and younger.